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Congress on Christian Work in Latin America

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CHANGE OF NAME OF THE CONFERENCE

Acting on suggestions from the field, and after full correspondence with the interested Boards, the Committee on Arrangements has decided to change the name of the Panama gathering from "Latin-America Missionary Conference" to "Congress on Christian Work in Latin-America." This name is much more acceptable and better understood by our Latin-American friends, and it is believed that it will immediately challenge the sympathetic attention of a much larger number of people in these countries in whose interest the gathering is held.

THE SPIRIT OF THE CONGRESS DEFINED

"**RESOLVED,** That this Conference strongly recommends that those who are making arrangements for the Panama Congress, as well as all writers and speakers at the Congress, bear in mind that, if the best and most lasting results are to be obtained, while frankly facing moral and spiritual conditions which call for missionary work in Latin America, and while presenting the Gospel which we hold as the only adequate solution of the problems which those conditions present, it shall be the purpose of the Panama Congress to recognize all the elements of truth and goodness in any form of religious faith. Our approach to the people shall be neither critical nor antagonistic, but inspired by the teachings and example of Christ and that charity which thinketh no evil and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth.

"In the matter of Christian service, we will welcome the co-operation of any who are willing to co-operate in any part of the Christian program. We should not demand union with us in all our work as the condition of accepting allies for any part of it."

Thus was the spirit of the Panama Congress defined by a most important representative meeting of the Chairmen of the eight Commissions and members of their Executive Committees, with the Committee of Arrangements, held at Caldwell, N. J., June 9-10. This group of thirty-five men and women included not only those who know missions from the theoretical side, but also several who have spent long periods of years in Latin America, men who speak Spanish and Portuguese fluently, one of the Commission Chairmen being a well-known Latin-American.

Dr. John R. Mott presided at all the sessions, during the two days. In presenting the work to be considered, he said that it would be helpful to imagine the Panama and Sectional Conferences past, and the Commission Reports already in the hands of the public, and try to foresee the results. He suggested that there would issue vastly larger plans on behalf of Latin America, a larger understanding of its people, a truer science of the expansion of pure Christianity in the Latin-American world, a larger efficiency and a better strategy, larger co-operation and unity, a more commanding vision and a deeper sense of responsibility, and, finally, a far larger realization of the superhuman in this undertaking. The object of the two days' meetings was to consider how to enlist in this movement the people who can do most, humanly speaking, to accomplish our end; how to assemble the facts; and how to liberate the necessary spiritual power.

The Executive Secretary stated briefly the development of the Panama Congress. The movement began at the Edinburgh Conference, in 1910. The eight Commissions making investigations for the Panama Congress now have 215 members, most of whom have long been students of Latin America. To date, over 200 papers have been sent in to the Commissions, from the more than 600 correspondents. Practically all the Boards intend to send their full quota of delegates to Panama, and applications for visitors' privileges are being received from many persons prominent in Church and public life. For entertainment of the Congress, the Government of Panama has offered the National Institute buildings, for day meetings and dormitory accommodations, and the new National Theatre for night meetings. It will be easily possible to care for 500 at the Congress. Immediately following the Panama Congress, groups of strong leaders will visit, direct from Panama, the Sectional Conferences: four in South America, two in the West Indies, one in Central America, and one in Mexico. The personnel of these groups now being organized include such leaders as Dr. Arthur J. Brown, Dr. L. C. Barnes, Miss Belle Bennett, Miss Carrie Carnahan, C. J. Ewald, Bishop Kinsolving, Bishop A. S. Lloyd, Bishop W. F. Oldham, Prof. Andrés Osuna, President C. T. Paul, and Dr. C. L. Thompson.

The conference then took up the first drafts of the eight Commission Reports, and discussed very thoroughly the spirit and substance of each one. From a mechanical viewpoint, it was arranged that the whole eight Reports would be comprehensive and harmonious; from the spiritual viewpoint, this conference made its most significant contribution in its endeavor to discover the attitude that the Panama Congress must take, and the spirit that must be breathed into all the Reports, if Christian work in Latin America is to be made adequate and effective.

As the Report of the Commission on Message and Method will embody what is most important in this vital study, its Chairman, Bishop Wm. Cabell Brown, who has spent twenty-three years in Brazil, and Dr. Charles L. Thompson, Chairman of the Commission on Co-operation and Unity, were asked to draft a resolution that would express the crystallized conviction of those present concerning this question. The report of this committee after careful discussion was approved with remarkable unanimity, and with a profound conviction that it had been framed under Divine Guidance. All voiced their assurance that it expresses the wisest attitude and the most effective approach, as well as the true Christian spirit. After Bishop Oldham had led in prayer the resolution was unanimously adopted, as quoted above.

Every one present went away ready to help in obtaining the hearty co-operation of North Americans and Latin Americans alike in a program that is sympathetic, constructive and far-sighted.

The following were present: Mrs. Anna R. Atwater, Dr. L. C. Barnes, Prof. Harlan P. Beach, Miss Belle H. Bennett, Dr. Arthur J. Brown, Bishop Wm. Cabell Brown (Brazil), Dr. S. H. Chester, Mr. E. T. Colton, Dr. Ed. F. Cook, Mr. Morris Ehnes, Dr. Milton Greene (Cuba), Mrs. Ida W. Harrison, Mr. Harry Wade Hicks, Mr. Chas. D. Hurrey (Argentina), Mr. S. G. Inman (Mexico), Dr. John M. Kyle (Brazil), Bishop Walter R. Lambuth, Bishop Arthur S. Lloyd, Prof. Donald C. MacLaren (Brazil), Prof. Paul Monroe, Dr. John R. Mott, Bishop Wm. F. Oldham, Prof. Andrés Osuna (Mexico), Dr. Cornelius Patton, Presidest Chas. T. Paul, Dr. Gerhard J. Schilling (Argentina), Dr. Chas. L. Thompson, Mr. Fennell P. Turner, Mr. Eugene E. Vann (Brazil), Mr. John H. Warner (Brazil), Dr. Stanley White.

OPPORTUNITIES AND PURPOSES OF THE CONGRESS

We are greatly indebted to many friends of wide experience who are studying with us the large problems of the coming Congress. Not only do we find religious leaders of great experience in international and interdenominational matters, but business men, diplomats and educationalists, everywhere

trusted as forward-looking men of international mind anxious to help in a movement which promises to go so deeply into the vital problems of enlarging international brotherhood between peoples of long mutual misunderstandings, because of failure to know the deepest and best in one another.

The president of one of the largest banks in North America, who has large business relations and many personal friends all over Latin America, writes:

> "It would seem that the date set for this Congress is opportune, and that your plan for co-operation is sound and promising of success.
>
> "Pan-Americanism should, of course, mean much more than the mere development of commercial opportunities, and the establishment of trade interests. It should mean the development of a broader and better understanding between the nations of the two Americas. The present is an opportune time for extending old and establishing new friendly relations with the nations of both South and Central America, and with the individuals who constitute those nations. The peaceful intentions of this nation and our worthy national ambitions have been impressed upon our southern neighbors as never before. They are seeing that the motives underlying our relations with them are not imperialistic. If the recognition of this attitude by the southern republics is possible along political and commercial lines, I see no reason why there should not be the same attitude and recognition in the development of our higher relations.
>
> "Co-operation in its truest and best form is fundamentally important in producing the proper measure of success. In the South and Central American countries, we find a different people. In the light of previous experience, I do not feel that our efforts will be successful if we endeavor to force upon our southern neighbors our ideas of education and of religion and creed, but I am sure that we can help reciprocally in promoting the religious and educational conditions in those countries, and in bringing about a more thorough understanding of the aspirations of each. We have much to learn, as well as to teach, and our efforts in any direction will not be properly productive if we do not learn this lesson. Through a proper recognition of this, we shall be able to gain the confidence of the South American nations, and promote moral values and national and personal ideals.
>
> "I feel that the Congress will be productive of much good, and that it will be the beginning of a rapid advancement along the lines indicated by your Bulletin."

Another friend, who has been most intimately associated with the preparation of the Congress, expresses himself as follows, as to its purpose:

"Realizing the ever-increasing interdependence of the civilizations of the world, and especially those of North and South America, the Congress at Panama has been called for the purpose:

"First—Of obtaining a more accurate mutual knowledge of the history, resources, achievements and ideals of the people of the two Americas.

"Second—To reveal the fact that these countries may mutually serve each other by contributing the best in their civilizations to each other's life.

"Third—To discover and to correct such defects and weaknesses in character as may be hindering the growth of these nations.

"Fourth—To unite in a common purpose to strengthen the moral, social and religious forces that are now working for the betterment of these countries, and to create the desire for these things where absent.

"Fifth—To discover the underlying principles upon which true national prosperity and stability depend, and to consider ways and means by which these principles may be put in action and made effective."

With both of these friends, the Committee arranging for the Congress is in the deepest accord.

NOTES

We are greatly indebted to Bishop Hassé and the Rev. Alan Ewbank of the British Corresponding Committee for the preparation of a prayer pamphlet for the use of those who are remembering the Congress in their daily intercessions. It contains suggestive topics and prayers for each day in the week, with helpful quotations from great Church leaders, concerning the power of prayer in guiding aright the preparation and deliberations of gatherings charged with such large responsibilities as the Panama Congress. Copies can be obtained gratis by addressing the Secretary of the Congress.

Committees of Arrangement for Sectional Conferences have now been organized and are actively at work in Lima, Santiago, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro and Havana. As it has been recently decided to hold conferences also in Porto Rico and Central America, they will no doubt soon be organized. These local Committees are not only working faithfully for their local conferences, but are giving invaluable aid in the preparation of Commission reports for the Panama Congress. The Committee in charge of the Santiago Conference send us minutes of their weekly meetings, held ever since its organization. The chairman, Dr. W. E. Browning has been relieved of his other duties to give his whole time to this work. In the next Bulletin we hope to describe more fully the important work of the Sectional Conferences.

The growth of interest in the Congress can be judged somewhat by the expansion of the Executive office. At first it consisted of a desk in the office of another secretary. Later on, by the courtesy of the Presbyterian Board, it was given a large room to itself, and more recently it has been found necessary to add another room and materially increase the clerical force. If it were not for the privileges enjoyed of using this same Board's Filing and Treasurer's Departments, and for the copying work done by an outside firm, much larger accommodations would be needed. On a single mail boat from Chile last month we received over two hundred pages of typewritten material for the various commission reports. One contribution from the chairman of their Sectional Conference consisted of a hundred pages of valuable material for the Commission on Education. Other fields have been pouring material in a continuous stream into the office. All this must be copied and carbons sent to each member of the Executive Committee of the Commission for which it is intended, and to any others to whose investigations it is particularly pertinent. It is safe to say that never before has such a mass of material from expert sources been gathered together on the religious, educational and social conditions of Latin-America. Besides serving as a basis for Commission reports, it is planned to present the Missionary Research Library of New York with copies of all these contributions and documents collected so they may be continually accessible to investigators of these subjects.

It is generally considered quite impossible to get a full committee meeting in New York. Yet as this Bulletin goes to press there is in session the largest meeting of the Committee of Arrangements ever held with the following members and visitors present:

Messrs. Brown (A. J.), Hurrey, Inman, Lloyd, Haven, Mott, Pierson, Thompson, Turner, Wood (John W.), Colton, Fahs, Morehouse, Sanders, Beaver, White (Stanley) and Warner. A majority of these have made special trips from their summer headquarters involving real sacrifices to be present.

Besides this meeting, the Executive Committees of the Commissions on Education, The Church in the Field, and Co-operation and Unity, and the Editorial Committee are having meetings in New York the same week. This is only typical of the activities during this warm weather. In fact it would be difficult for any one who is not called to attend all these meetings and take a share in the assigned work as is the Executive Secretary, to realize what an enormous amount of labor is being expended in the investigations of the Commissions and other preparations for the Congress.

A little group of the Commission on Co-operation and Unity have had three meetings of several days each at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, during the last few weeks. An enormous amount of work has been done on this report already, and yet they propose two more weeks of close attention before they release it for criticism of others.

The Commission on Education is fortunate in counting among its membership some of the leading educators of North and Latin-America. Its Executive Committee was recently the guests of Dean Russell at Teachers College, when great progress was made toward the preparation of the report. There were present Prof. Donald MacLaren, former president Mackenzie College, Pres. Henry Churchill King, Oberlin; Prof. Ernest D. Burton, University of Chicago; Dean James E. Russell, Teachers College; Prof. Paul Monroe, Editor Encyclopedia on Education; Dr. Thomas Nicholson, Sect. Board of Education; M. E. Church; Profs. J. T. Moses and E. E. Vann formerly in educational work in Mexico and Brazil, and the Executive Secretary of the Congress. Sections of the report were assigned to each one, to be submitted to a later meeting at the same place. One of the committee is to spend several days in the libraries in Washington and the National Bureau of Education, collecting data for the Commission.

The Proof Sheets of the preliminary drafts of the Eight Commission Reports will soon be ready for mailing to members of Commissions and others who are asked to criticise them. An Editorial Committee, consisting of Dr. Frank K. Sanders, Mr. C. H. Fahs, Bishop A. S. Lloyd and Prof. Andres Osuna, are passing on these reports as received from the chairmen, before they are turned over to the printers for the preliminary proof sheets. Three reports are in the hands of the Editing Committee at this writing, and it is expected that the proof sheets of these will be mailed by August 21st, and the remaining five by September 1st. All proof sheets with criticisms must be returned in time for thorough consideration before the joint meeting of chairmen, November 16th and 17th, when the final drafts will be determined upon. Those outside of South America should return these preliminary drafts by October 1st

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*(The members of this permanent committee are selected by their respective Boards; it has chosen the "Committee on Arrangements" to develop the Congress.)

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Miss ELIZABETH R. BENDER, Secretary, Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, New York.

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Miss LAURA CLAY, Protestant Episcopal Church, Lexington, Ky.

Mrs. C. E. CONWELL, American Baptist Home Mission Society, Mexico City.

Srta. ELISA CORTÉS, Secretary, Young Women's Christian Association, Buenos Aires.

Miss MABEL HEAD, Secretary, Women's Missionary Council, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Nashville, Tenn.

Miss MILLER, The Evangelical Union of South America, London.

Mrs. FRANK J. MILLER, Chairman, Editorial Committee, Woman's American Baptist Home Missionary Society, Chicago, Ill.

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Miss MARY PICKETT, American Friend's Board of Foreign Missions, Brownsville, Texas.

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Miss HARRIET TAYLOR, Secretary, National Board, Young Women's Christian Associations, New York.

Miss ELSIE WOOD, Methodist Episcopal Church, Callao, Perú.

Mrs. WM. D. BARBOUR, Secretary, Women's Board of Foreign Missions, Presbyterian Church, New York.

Miss IDA W. HAYES, Madero Institute, Saltillo, Mexico.

Mrs. JOHN HOWLAND, American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, Chihuahua, Mexico.

Mrs. K. B. SHAFFER, Ph.D., Editor, "Lutheran Woman's Work," Delaware, Ohio.

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The Rev. W. H. TEETER, Superintendent, Central District, Methodist Episcopal Church, Santiago de Chile.

Mrs. KATHERINE S. WESTFALL, Secretary, Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society, Chicago, Ill.

The Rev. J. D. WILLIAMS, Secretary, Christian and Missionary Alliance, New York.

PAM.
S. AMER.

Congress on Christian Work in Latin America

A Congress on Christian Work in Latin America has been called to meet in the City of Panama, February 10-20, 1916. While the Congress must necessarily be chiefly concerned in studying the problems of Latin-American life and religion, a most beneficial reaction will undoubtedly be felt on the Christian work in all the countries represented by the delegates. The Committee on Arrangements has endeavored to give expression to this thought in the following statement of its purpose:

> "Realizing the ever-increasing interdependence of the civilizations of the world, and especially those of North and Latin America, as well as of the continent of Europe, the Congress at Panama has been called for the purposes:
>
> "First—To obtain a more accurate mutual knowledge of the history, resources, achievements and ideals of the peoples so closely associated in their business and social life.
>
> "Second—To reveal the fact that these countries may mutually serve one another by contributing the best in their civilizations to each other's life.
>
> "Third—To discover and devise means to correct such defects and weaknesses in character as may be hindering the growth of those nations.
>
> "Fourth—To unite in a common purpose to strengthen the moral, social and religious forces that are now working for the betterment of these countries, and to create the desire for these things where absent.

"Fifth—To discover the underlying principles upon which true national prosperity and stability depend, and to consider ways and means by which these principles may be put in action and made effective."

The opportunity for such a Congress and the need of this spirit of helpfulness and mutual understanding have been emphasized by the European war. The world has been revealed as a vast sensitive plant. It must prosper or suffer as a whole. Nations are learning to know each other. Isolation is impossible. Business men realize this and are getting together in Pan-American alliances. Christian men have a greater duty to unite in mutual service.

THE SPIRIT OF THE CONGRESS

Realizing that it was important that the work of this Congress should be unified by a common spirit, if it was to avoid the dangers of misunderstanding, friction and acrimonious discussions, which from a spiritual standpoint was most essential, the following action was taken by the Committee on Arrangements and adopted in a solemn moment of quiet and prayer:

"This Committee strongly recommends that those who are making arrangements for the Panama Congress, as well as all writers and speakers at the Congress, bear in mind that, if the best and most lasting results are to be obtained, while frankly facing moral and spiritual conditions which call for missionary work in Latin America, and while presenting the Gospel which we hold as the only adequate solution of the problems which those conditions present, it shall be the purpose of the Panama Congress to recognize all the elements of truth and goodness in any form of religious faith. Our approach to the people shall be neither critical nor antagonistic, but inspired by the teachings and example of Christ and that charity which thinketh no evil and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth.

"In the matter of Christian service, we will welcome the cooperation of any who are willing to cooperate in any part of the Christian program. We should not demand union with us in all our work as the condition of accepting allies for any part of it."

Manifestly this will insure a constructive note and a spirit of Christian charity and fraternal feeling, in the facing of all the facts, without which little could be accomplished.

As expressive of the catholicity of spirit of the Congress, the Committee on Arrangements has passed the following resolution and invitation in the earnest hope that those in whose heart it strikes a sympathetic chord will join, by their presence and prayers, in this effort to establish Christ's righteous Kingdom on the earth:

"All communions or organizations which accept Jesus Christ as Divine Saviour and Lord, and the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as the Revealed Word of God, and whose purpose is to make the will of Christ prevail in Latin America, are cordially invited to participate in the Panama Congress, and will be heartily welcomed."

Those desiring further information are invited to correspond with the Executive Secretary of the Congress, S. G. Inman, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.